

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 01128 191913Z
ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4857
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.) US GW WB UR
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S VISIT TO BERLIN

REF: STATE 11721

1. AS EXPECTED, THE SOVIETS HAVE QUESTIONED --THOUGH
SO FAR ONLY AT A LOW LEVEL -- THE PROPRIETY OF
FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S ACCOMPANYING THE VICE
PRESIDENT-ELECT TO BERLIN. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION
JANUARY 19, SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR POPOV (RESPONSIBLE
FOR BERLIN MATTERS) ASKED EMBOFF WHETHER ANY FRG
OFFICIALS WOULD GO WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT TO BERLIN.
EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT THE VICE CHANCELLOR WOULD IN
ALL LIKELIHOOD ACCOMPANY HIM.

2. POPOV ASKED WHAT BUSINESS GENSCHER HAD IN BERLIN.
EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT IT WAS PERFECTLY NORMAL FOR
HIM TO GO ALONG AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, WHOM US
OFFICIALS INVITED TO GO TO WEST BERLIN WAS NOT A
MATTER FOR SOVIET CONCERN. POPOV SAID THE SAME
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PROBLEM HAD ARISEN WHEN GENSCHER ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY
KISSINGER TO BERLIN. EMBOFF SAID THAT HE RECALLED
GROMYKO HAD RAISED THE MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY IN
1975 AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETARY
HAD RESPONDED ALONG THE SAME LINES.
STOESSEL

SECRET

NNN

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